

A continued meeting of the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, May 16, 2016, in the Circuit Courthouse's second floor conference room in Fincastle, Virginia, beginning at 6:00 P. M.

PRESENT: Members: Mr. L. W. Leffel, Jr., Chairman
Mr. Todd L. Dodson, Vice-Chairman
Mr. John B. Williamson, III
Mr. Billy W. Martin, Sr.
Dr. Donald M. Scothorn

ABSENT: Members: None

Others present at the meeting:

Mr. Gary Larrowe, County Administrator
Mr. David Moorman, Deputy County Administrator
Mr. Tony Zerrilla, Director of Finance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P. M.

Mr. Leffel reminded those present that this is EMS Week and encouraged everyone to show their support for the County's volunteer and career EMS personnel.

Mr. Leffel also congratulated Mr. Martin on his fortieth wedding anniversary.

Mr. Williamson then gave a report from the Budget Subcommittee. He stated that the Board held a work session on May 6 to review various budget funding scenarios as developed by Mr. Zerrilla and the General Fund Budget Subcommittee. He noted that these scenarios have not changed in the interim.

He further noted that Mr. John Busher, Superintendent of Schools, was present at this meeting to answer any questions from the Board members.

Mr. Leffel then welcomed School Board members Ruth Wallace, Kathy Sullivan, and John Alderson to the meeting.

Mr. Williamson stated that the Board is required by State law to vote on the School budget by May 15, which was on a Sunday this year; therefore, action needs to be taken at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Leffel then opened the meeting for general discussion by the Board members.

Dr. Scothorn noted that he has received many e-mail messages regarding the County and School budget and tax rates since the budget public hearing. Mr. Dodson stated that he also had received numerous e-mails on these issues.

Mr. Williamson then made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Leffel, to adopt the following resolution to approve the proposed FY 16-17 School budget which includes \$1.5 million in additional revenues. This motion failed by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Mr. Williamson, Mr. Leffel

NAYS: Mr. Dodson, Mr. Martin, Dr. Scothorn

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Resolution Number 16-05-03

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2016-2017 School budget was duly advertised and a public hearing was held on April 26, 2016, in accordance with the Code of Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Botetourt County Public Schools budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 is:

	Approved FY 16 – 17
<u>Revenues:</u>	
School Fund Revenues:	
Local	\$24,349,282
State	\$24,617,359
Federal	\$ 40,000
Other	\$ 1,465,891
 School Instructional Programs with Self-Sustaining Funds	 \$ 3,222,839
 School Nutrition Fund	 \$ 1,730,134
Textbook Fund	\$ 1,175,000
Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$ 507,000</u>
 Total School Fund Revenues	 \$57,107,505

<u>Expenditures:</u>	
School Operating Fund	\$50,472,532
 School Instructional Program with Self-Sustaining Funds	 \$ 3,222,839
 School Nutrition Fund	 \$ 1,730,134
Textbook Fund	\$ 1,175,000
Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$ 507,000</u>
 Total School Fund Expenditures	 \$57,107,505

Mr. Dodson then made a motion to adopt the following resolution to approve the proposed FY 16-17 School budget which includes \$1.0 million in additional revenues. This motion failed as no second was submitted.

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2016-2017 School budget was duly advertised and a public hearing was held on April 26, 2016, in accordance with the Code of Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Botetourt County Public Schools budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 is:

	Approved FY 16 – 17
<u>Revenues:</u>	
School Fund Revenues:	
Local	\$23,849,282
State	\$24,617,359
Federal	\$ 40,000
Other	\$ 1,465,891
 School Instructional Programs with Self-Sustaining Funds	 \$ 3,222,839
 School Nutrition Fund	 \$ 1,730,134
Textbook Fund	\$ 1,175,000
Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$ 507,000</u>
 Total School Fund Revenues	 \$56,607,505
<u>Expenditures:</u>	
School Operating Fund	\$49,972,532
 School Instructional Program with Self-Sustaining Funds	 \$ 3,222,839

School Nutrition Fund	\$ 1,730,134
Textbook Fund	\$ 1,175,000
Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$ 507,000</u>
Total School Fund Expenditures	\$56,607,505

On motion by Mr. Leffel, seconded by Mr. Williamson, and carried by the following recorded vote, the Board adopt the following resolution to approve the proposed FY 16-17 School budget which includes \$1.35 million in additional revenues.

AYES: Mr. Williamson, Mr. Dodson, Mr. Leffel, Dr. Scothorn

NAYS: Mr. Martin

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

Resolution Number 16-05-04

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2016-2017 School budget was duly advertised and a public hearing was held on April 26, 2016, in accordance with the Code of Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Botetourt County Public Schools budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 is:

	<u>Approved FY 16 – 17</u>
<u>Revenues:</u>	
School Fund Revenues:	
Local	\$24,199,282
State	\$24,617,359
Federal	\$ 40,000
Other	\$ 1,465,891
School Instructional Programs with Self-Sustaining Funds	\$ 3,222,839
School Nutrition Fund	\$ 1,730,134
Textbook Fund	\$ 1,175,000
Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$ 507,000</u>
Total School Fund Revenues	\$56,957,505
<u>Expenditures:</u>	
School Operating Fund	\$50,322,532
School Instructional Program with Self-Sustaining Funds	\$ 3,222,839
School Nutrition Fund	\$ 1,730,134
Textbook Fund	\$ 1,175,000
Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$ 507,000</u>
Total School Fund Expenditures	\$56,957,505

Mr. Williamson then stated that the Board would need to consider whether to schedule adoption of the General Fund budget and tax rates at their May 24 regular meeting. After discussion, it was noted that this item is included on the draft May 24 agenda as the first “General Item;” however, if the Board desired to schedule this discussion at a specific time, 2:15 PM is available at this time.

Mr. Zerrilla stated that the public hearing on the proposed amendments to the elderly and disabled tax exemption ordinance is scheduled for 3:30 P. M. on May 24.

Mr. Dodson questioned whether the elderly exemption public hearing should be held prior to the Board's consideration of the budget and tax rates.

Mr. Zerrilla stated that the proposed exemption impacts figure is included in the proposed budget amount; however, it is based on the numbers provided by the Commissioner of the Revenue and is a very conservative amount.

Mr. Williamson noted that the resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors this evening eliminates budget funding scenarios 1 and 3 as presented by Mr. Zerrilla at the May 6 meeting. He noted that scenarios 2 and 3 took into consideration the adjustment of exemption levels for tax relief for the elderly and disabled which would provide approximately \$125,000 in tax relief. Mr. Williamson stated that, if the Board adopted a budget less than proposed in scenario 2, it would result in less tax relief for the elderly/disabled.

Mr. Williamson stated that the timing of the budget approval at the May 24 regular meeting either before or after the public hearing on the elderly/disabled exemption revisions does not appear to matter.

After discussion by Mr. Dodson, Mr. Williamson suggested that the Board consider approval of the proposed County budget and tax rates early in the May 24 meeting prior to the elderly/disabled ordinance public hearing.

Dr. Scothorn then stated that, at the May 6 meeting, he mentioned that one of his patients had heard that someone was interested in taking over the Blue Bird bus factory and use it to refurbish buses.

After questioning by Dr. Scothorn, Mr. Busher stated that he had not been contacted by the individual Dr. Scothorn is referring to. Mr. Busher stated that the school system currently uses International Blue Bird buses to transport students and use parts from retired buses to make repairs to their fleet. Mr. Busher stated that his staff has contacted various bus companies to see what they do with old buses to determine if the County could purchase used school buses that are in good condition.

Mr. Busher stated that three counties in northern Virginia are experiencing expansions in their school populations and have a turnover of many used buses. He noted that they will contact these localities to see if any used buses would be suitable for the County to purchase.

Mr. Busher further stated that the State of Virginia has a law that school buses have to be removed from active transportation of students once they travel 200,000 miles. He noted that buses with this mileage can continue to be used as activity buses and other similar uses.

Mr. Busher stated that their research indicated that one used bus with 82,000 miles was available, but they determined that the odometer was broken and the vehicle actually had been driven 382,000 miles. He noted that a majority of used/secondary buses are sold overseas as a package deal.

Mr. Busher stated that the school system would like to get back onto their bus replacement cycle but will continue to look at the potential for used buses that may be available in the State. After discussion, he noted that they are unable to receive maintenance/mileage records for out-of-state school buses.

Dr. Scothorn "challenged" the school system to ensure that they consider the cost savings of reconditioned school buses and obtain information from the State as to whether school buses over 200,000 miles can be used and, if so, what the County's savings would be.

Mr. Busher stated that he will have to check with the Department of Education to determine if used/reconditioned school buses can be used to transport students on a daily basis.

Dr. Scothorn stated that he met with a group last week and reviewed the pay scale for Roanoke City's teachers compared to Botetourt County. He noted that some of the people he met with are considering going to work for Roanoke City because of the higher salaries.

Dr. Scothorn stated that he considers Fire/EMS, Sheriff's Department, and schools the "three-legged stool" of the County's budget and he wants to make sure that we are staying level. He noted that what the individuals had to say at last week's meeting compelled him to listen. Dr. Scothorn stated that he believes that the Board has an open mind.

Mr. Leffel stated that the County has some great ideas and opportunities for the future and education "is in the middle of it." He noted that the County is discussing options that few other people are doing. He noted that the County needs to train our students to get what they need to come back to the County to work. Mr. Leffel stated that "we have to have our people prepared if we want them to come back home" to live and work and the County is fortunate now to start this process. He noted that this will not begin overnight.

Mr. Leffel stated that the best education will require the best people to do the teaching and those teachers will need to be paid. Mr. Leffel stated that he hopes that the County will get a "tiny start" on this in the new fiscal year as this situation will not be resolved next year or the next.

Dr. Scothorn stated that communication between the Board and School Board is important and this is a vital part of working toward the County's future growth and progress along with the Board's meetings with the Planning Commission and Economic Development Authority.

Mr. Leffel stated that the County has two new administrators—Mr. Larowe and Mr. Busher—that he could not be more proud of.

Mr. Dodson stated that what makes this exciting is that the County has the leadership now to make the future look bright.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 P. M.